

Caring For Our Community

Matariki - Maori New Year

Bringing together family to share and learn the stories of the stars.

Maori New Year is marked by the rise of Matariki (a group of stars also known as the Pleiades) and the sighting of the next new moon. For Maori, it's time to grow crops, celebrate whanau and tikanga, and plan for the year ahead. For non-Maori, it's a chance to learn some amazing things about Maori culture.



Children from Otaki Primary School have grown their own crops to celebrate Matariki. Teacher Maharata Nikora-Davis says they're also learning to look after the earth. "They're really proud of what they've achieved," she says. "They've charted the growth of the plants and are learning about composting and recycling."

Each pupil has created papier-mâché stars and Piwiki here loved making the sun.

"I did it with Jack," he says. "For Matariki we sing as well. And we're going down to the beach really early to see the stars. Did you know the sun is a star?"



Kiana loves string games, especially stars. Her teacher Maharata says it's through personal experience that children best learn. "This time of year is also about the families getting behind the kids, through the ups and downs."

- Ways to celebrate Matariki:**
- Plant seasonable vegetables
 - Spend time together as a family
 - Set some goals for the year
 - Give a special gift to someone

Matariki celebrations continue until July. Contact your local marae, Te Papa, or Wellington City Council for events.

BEAT THE WINTER CHILLS...

\$400 discount when you buy a **HEAT PUMP**

Electra in partnership with Temperature Solutions - the heat pump specialists with over 30 years experience

Offer available to all electricity consumers in the Kapiti - Horowhenua area

Call now on **0800 836 7765**
For your free quotation

Proudly sponsored by Electra, your local electricity lines company

www.electra.co.nz

